

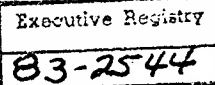
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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

9 MAY 1983

RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

Mr. John McMahon
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear John:

The evolution of Soviet armor continues to pose questions regarding the adequacy of our antiarmor weapons. In several instances, we have found that by the time we have fielded a weapon, it has been made obsolete by improvements in Soviet armor and countermeasures. Because of the large investment costs, we need to better forecast the enemy's armor potential so that when it is fielded, we are also fielding the antiarmor weapons capable of defeating it.

During the recent House Appropriations Committee hearing on antiarmor weapons, the committee members voiced their concerns over apparent duplication in antiarmor weapons and large investment costs. We believe that the weapons programs that we are pursuing are necessary to support our tactics and doctrine, and, like the Congress, we also want to develop and field weapons that can defeat the threat at the lowest overall cost. To that end, we are initiating the development of an "Antiarmor Master Plan". I solicit your support in helping to develop the Antiarmor Master Plan.

I also request an increased and continuing effort from your organization to determine where the Soviets are headed in the development and fielding of armor and antiarmor weapons. The timely availability of this information will greatly assist us in developing and fielding cost effective antiarmor weapons.

Sincerely,

